

Sharing

Jesus

Life

VISION

A **MISSIONAL** church that is lovingly connecting with their community and effectively sharing Jesus.

A **JESUS - CENTRED** church where Jesus is worshipped in spirit and truth and the Bible is clearly taught.

A **DISCIPLING** church producing life-long disciples of Jesus who are trained and equipped for ministry.

SERVICES

- Church services that are welcoming, engaging and compelling
- Minimising formality and ritual to effectively communicate the Gospel to a contemporary world

- Church services in which Jesus is central, and God's Word is preached clearly and applied powerfully
- Clear, relevant prayers, Bible readings and songs that are Jesus-centred and Gospel focused

- Church services that involve and develop the gift ministry of believers
- Preaching which transforms and equips believers for life-long discipleship

BIBLE STUDIES

- Regular courses for introducing people to Jesus and the Christian faith
- Effective discipleship of new Christians

- Develop a growing number of ongoing Bible study groups that are Bible-based and Jesus-focused
- Co-ordination of Bible studies with the preaching program

- All church members encouraged to join a Bible study group
- Structure and content of Bible study groups facilitate personal growth in all aspects of discipleship

POSSIBLE PROGRAMS & STRATEGIES

- Develop an invitational culture
- Occasional non-threatening social events for inviting friends
- Occasional Gospel events and/or evangelistic services for inviting friends
- Effective welcoming and follow up of newcomers
- Effective advertising and promotion of the church within the community
- More effective connection with existing contacts (baptisms, confirmations, weddings, etc)
- Special annual services to honour and pray for key community groups (RFS, local council, etc)
- Develop a needs-based outreach ministry providing practical care in Jesus' name
- Develop age-appropriate ministries (eg, children, seniors, young mothers)
- Training courses to equip believers to share Jesus simply and effectively
- Develop appropriate pathways and resources for evangelising and discipling

- Foster dependence upon Jesus by a commitment to regular corporate prayer that underpins and upholds all church programs and ministries
- Encourage obedience to Jesus by the intentional pursuit of personal and corporate holiness
- Reflect the love of Jesus by the intentional pursuit of love, forgiveness, unity and hospitality within the church
- Revel in the grace of Jesus through the joyful and reverent celebration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- Honour Jesus through the generous, sacrificial giving of time, talents and money by church members
- Faithfully serve Jesus through wise governance of the church and good stewardship of resources
- Model Jesus by the establishment and nurturing of godly leaders who are led by the Spirit of Christ and reflect Jesus to the church.

- Develop and promote resources to facilitate personal daily Bible reading and prayer
- Encourage and facilitate personal prayer partners, for the purposes of mutual encouragement, accountability and support in walking with Jesus.
- Train and equip Bible study leaders
- Train and equip pastoral carers
- Train and equip lay service leaders
- Train and equip Bible readers and pray-ers for church services
- Train and equip a welcoming team for services and events
- Train and equip people to disciple others
- Train, equip and develop a growing team of preachers and teachers
- Develop and resource age-appropriate ministries (such as children, youth, young adults, retirees, young mothers, etc)
- Encourage and facilitate participation in conferences, seminars and online courses for people wanting to go deeper in their faith

INDICATORS

- New people coming into relationship with Jesus and incorporated into the church family
- Practical care provided to the community in the name of Jesus
- Growth of the church's favourable reputation in the community

- ↑ understanding of the Gospel
- ↑ number of Bible study groups
- ↑ obvious love and unity
- ↑ hospitality in each other's homes
- ↑ people attending prayer meetings
- ↑ people attending services regularly
- ↑ health of finances and resources

- ↑ trained leaders for ministries
- ↑ people in Bible study groups
- ↑ number of ministries
- ↑ people involved in ministries
- ↑ number of people across all ages and backgrounds within the church

CHALLENGES

ISSUES:

1. Ageing buildings requiring high maintenance →
2. Parishes spread thinly between multiple worship centres →
3. Ageing congregations with limited energy →
4. Limited finances in many parishes →
5. Many parishes without clergy →
6. Too many worship services in some churches →

CONSIDER:

1. Renovate or sell and relocate, either buy or rent
2. Close smaller worship centres and combine for ↑ impact and ↑ efficiency of resources
3. Pray for young families and create an environment to attract them (contemp. service)
4. Seek financial advice from Diocese re: priorities and possible steps forward
5. Utilise occasional locum ministries and short-term missions.
6. Consolidate services to enhance unity and maximise resources

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Life

A **DISCIPLING** church producing life-long disciples of Jesus who are trained and equipped for ministry.

Humbly relying upon God, and recognising our unique context, we commit to implementing the following:

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RESULTING INITIAL ACTION STEPS